



## HOW CAN PEOPLE AFFORD THE NEW GED® TEST?

### FINDING ANSWERS

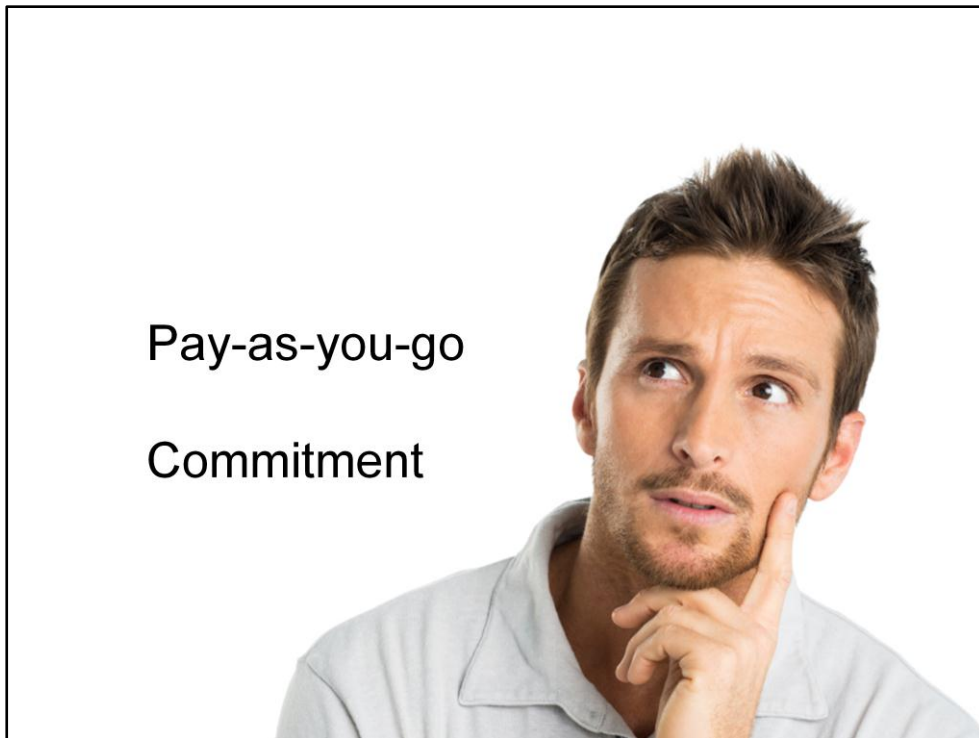
We have a problem.

How can people, who do not even have a high school diploma, afford to take the new GED® test?



Don't the people who make this test realize that most test-takers in Kentucky make less than \$10,000 per year and many are unemployed? Even though it may not be a big increase for people in other states, in Kentucky, this new national price makes the test cost twice as much. How are we going to deal with that?

Most of you have heard me say that when the price for the 2014 GED® test arrived on my desk in 2012, I was in such shock I let it sit there for several months before I shared the information. I was sure the price would be adjusted, and it was adjusted once, but not enough to make it easy for our test-takers. If we compare this price to the price of other certification tests, it is not out of line—we have to remember the GED® test is a really long test that requires 8 hours of scheduled seat time in a testing lab. I realize the price is still a shock for some who are learning about it for the first time, but we are at the point now where we need to move past the sticker shock and figure out how to help our test-takers.



For individual test-takers, put out the message that they can pay as they go. Test-takers don't have to pay the entire \$120 fee at one time. They can pay for each individual module as they take the test. In fact, \$30 per module is the same as the individual content area test fee we had for the paper test. Since a test-taker can pass a single module of the Ready™ test and then proceed to that same module of the GED® test, without having to pass all Ready™ test modules first, the computer test lends itself to scheduling a module at a time.

If a community partner helps pay the fee, get a commitment from the student. Have the student pay part of the fee, even if it is \$10 or \$15 per module. If the student has a financial stake in the appointment, they will try harder to overcome the obstacles to get to the testing center on the scheduled date or will make it a priority to reschedule 24 hours prior to the appointment.



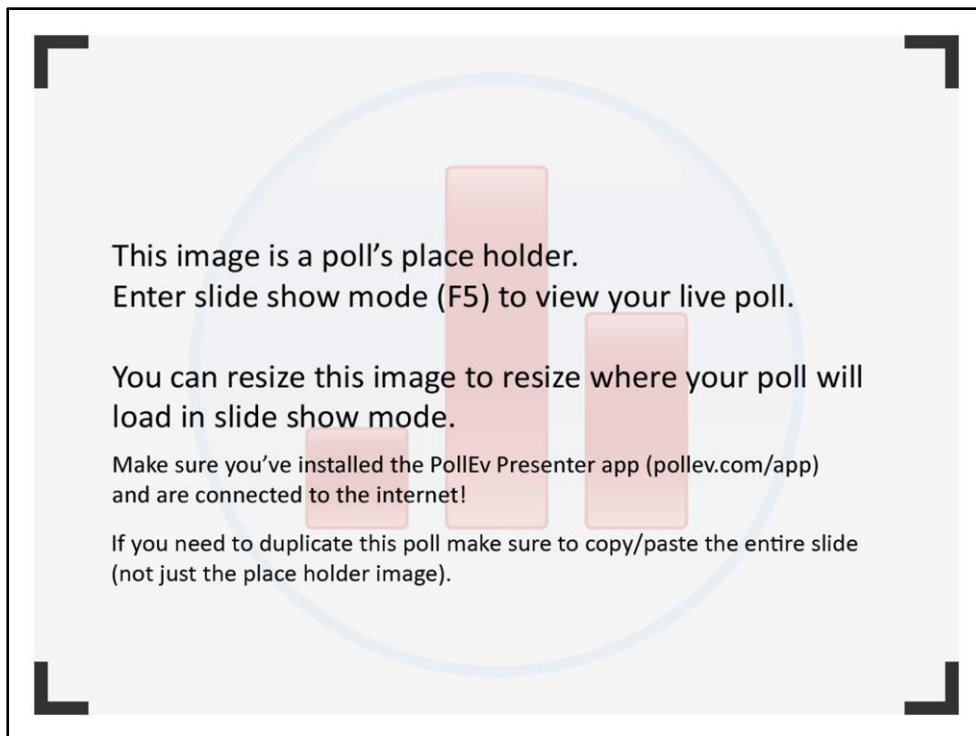
## Electronic Payment Options

But what if someone doesn't have a credit or debit card? The new GED® test requires electronic payment at the time the appointment is scheduled. If someone doesn't have a regular bank card, the pre-paid versions of these cards will work.

But pre-paid cards are not the best option for community partners that want to pay the fee for test-takers.



We have always had organizations that want to help some test-takers. GED Testing Service® has done studies showing that many test-takers receive assistance with the test fee from community organizations. More than ever before, we have to work together and form partnerships with the test-takers and those in the community that support our programs.



Let's get your ideas about the resources that are available in your communities to help pay the GED® test fee.

I want to give this poll a try. I appreciate you all joining in on this experiment with me!

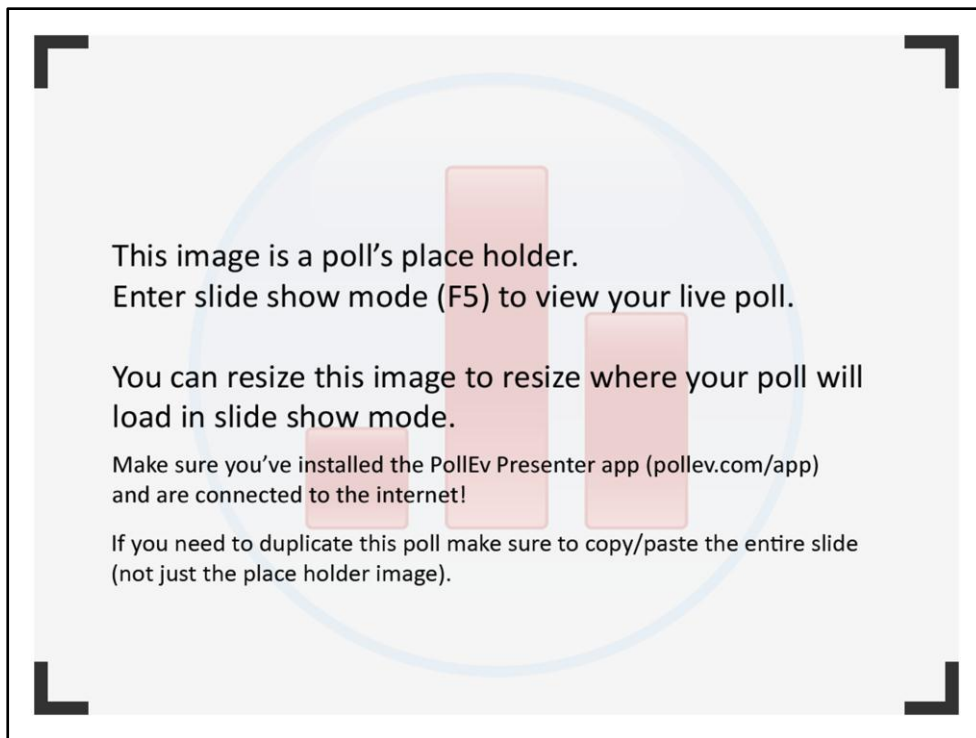
What organizations in your community have provided funds to pay the GED® test fee?

Create a word cloud by texting 37607 with the names of community partners that can help your students pay the fee. In the message line, add

935803 and then type in your response. If you would rather do this online, go to <http://www.polleverywhere.com/kyae> and enter your response.

Last year we began collecting this information because we wanted to inform these organizations about the changes in the test and the options for continuing to help with test fees. We discovered that the testing centers, because they often billed these organizations, had a more comprehensive view of resources available. Let's find out about the resources available in your community and then share the information. You may find some additional groups to contact.

What organizations in your community have provided funds to pay the GED® test fee?  
[http://www.polleverywhere.com/free\\_text\\_polls/RFRZ54KOzCMptb3](http://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/RFRZ54KOzCMptb3)



Next, I have a “yes” or “no” question.

Do you think you will be able to identify resources to help with the fee this year? Text  
37607

If your answer is “Yes”, enter 935804 in the message

If your answer is “No”, enter 935805 in the message.

We will keep the polls open until the end of the presentation and then take a look at  
the results.

Later this week we will post the results from both webinars with the presentation on  
the KYAE website.

Do you think you can identify community partner to help with the GED® test fee this  
year? [http://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple\\_choice\\_polls/NU7uUwmydn69Db0](http://www.polleverywhere.com/multiple_choice_polls/NU7uUwmydn69Db0)



The test fee can also be paid with vouchers.

Remember, vouchers for the GED Ready™ test are purchased through a publisher. This is so the student can receive feedback from their results with specific recommendations for additional study; the student will be referred to specific areas of the publisher's study materials. We have purchased Ready™ test vouchers for your programs from KET.

For the GED® test, vouchers are purchased from the Pearson VUE voucher store.

These are coupon codes that can be used at the online checkout when a test is scheduled. Any business or person can purchase vouchers. For vouchers, Pearson VUE accepts Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, check and money transfers as forms of payment. The voucher store is located at the link above. When you use this link, select GED Testing Service® as the client and then click on the link to the KY page.

A printed handout is available at the end of the presentation with all the information about how to order vouchers.

Let's try this: [www.pearsonvue.com/vouchers](http://www.pearsonvue.com/vouchers)



## Voucher Purchase Process - Steps to Take

### Step 1: Click on your jurisdiction.

1. Click on your jurisdiction below. A price list opens.
2. In the price list, locate the type of voucher you wish to purchase.
3. Note the amount in the **Voucher Cost** column (in red).

Kentucky ▼

Kentucky - \$30.00/module	Voucher Cost	Charge to Candidates
GED KY 100% <b>Multi-Use</b> Vouchers (4 Modules)	<b>\$120.00</b>	\$0.00
GED KY 100% <b>Single-Use</b> Vouchers (1 Module)	<b>\$30.00</b>	\$0.00
GED KY 50% <b>Multi-Use</b> Vouchers (4 Modules)	<b>\$60.00</b>	\$60.00
GEDTS 2014 KY \$10.00 PP Retake Voucher	<b>\$10.00</b>	\$0.00

### Step 2: Fill Out Voucher Order Form

1. Click on the [Voucher Order Form](#) (265 KB pdf).
2. Fill out the form, entering the **Voucher cost** in the appropriate column.
  - Internet Explorer or FireFox is required to fill out the voucher form. We are currently experiencing problems with Chrome.
  - DO NOT enter any special characters (ö, ä, é, etc.) into the form.
3. Submit the form and print a copy for your records.

Here is the Kentucky page.

We have asked that vouchers be added for \$15 single use (that would be ½ off the cost of each module) and \$20 single use (test-taker cost would be \$10).

You will also see there is a link to a form. The form can be completed online and sent by FAX or email. Voucher creation is processed within 2 business days from the time payment is processed.

If you are going to purchase vouchers now, I recommend you purchase a small number until you have experience with the vouchers and student demand.



## Vouchers Expire in 12 Months

**Caution: Vouchers must be used within 12 months of when they were issued.** Also, if someone makes an appointment and does not reschedule or cancel 24 hours before the time of the appointment, the funds will be lost.

And please note, the 24 hour requirement for rescheduling, means if your appointment is at 11 a.m. tomorrow, you must either call or go online and reschedule or cancel the appointment before 11 a.m. today. If you wait until the end of today to call to reschedule, you will have missed the deadline to do so and will have lost your payment if you do not show for the appointment.

The Test Center policies for admission and cancellation or rescheduling are attached at the end of the presentation.



### Testing in Correctional Facilities

Jails and prisons.

If these facilities are their own Pearson VUE testing centers, they will be billed monthly by Pearson for all tests scheduled at that center. If there are concerns about inmates leaving before the test dates, tests can be scheduled the day prior to the test session (this is the best practice), or, if needed, the day of the test session.

By the way, 2014 GED® tests have already been delivered in correctional facilities in Kentucky.

If the jail decides to contract with a public testing center to deliver the test, then vouchers would be a good option for paying the fee.



What about those who may already be receiving assistance?

We know many agencies have helped their clients with the test fee in the past.

Last October, we discussed the new fee requirements with the Department for Community Based Services and provided them with the options for payments. The Department for Community Based Services, Division of Family Support, Family Self-Sufficiency Branch is responsible for administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP), Kentucky Works Program (KWP), Family Alternatives Diversion (FAD) Program and the Medicaid programs.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Branch helps low-income families in Kentucky with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash benefit program. In Kentucky, the cash assistance program is called the Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP).

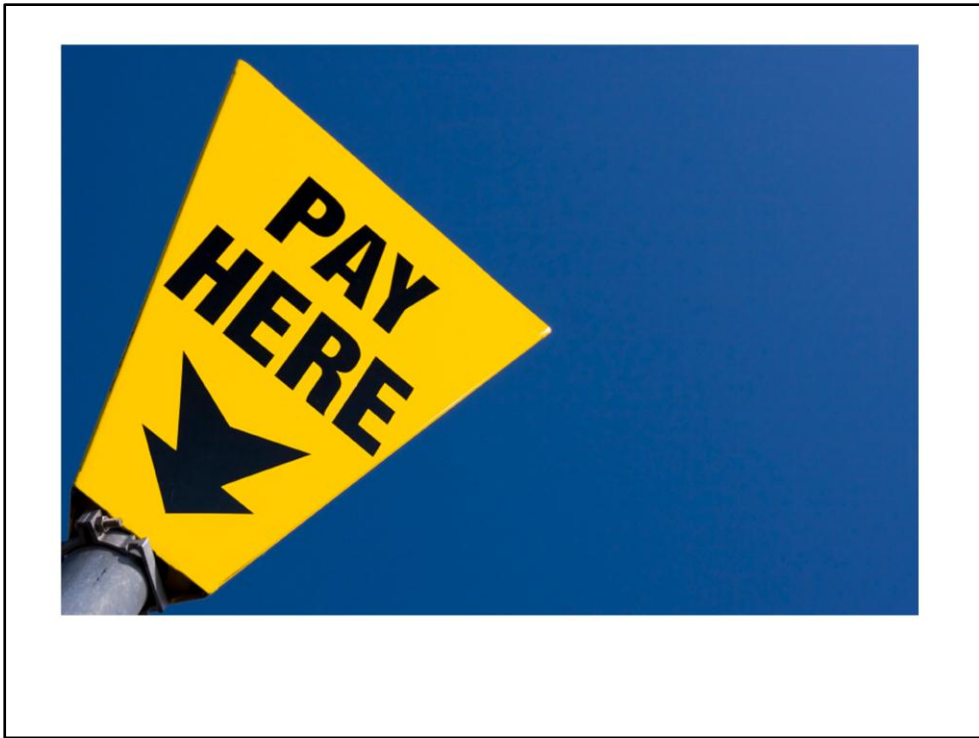
The people who administer these programs in Frankfort are aware of the changes in the GED® test and how this impacts the way they can assist their clients in paying the fee.

There questions about the 2014 GED® test reflect an interest in knowing their clients enroll in your services and make progress toward receiving the GED® test credential.

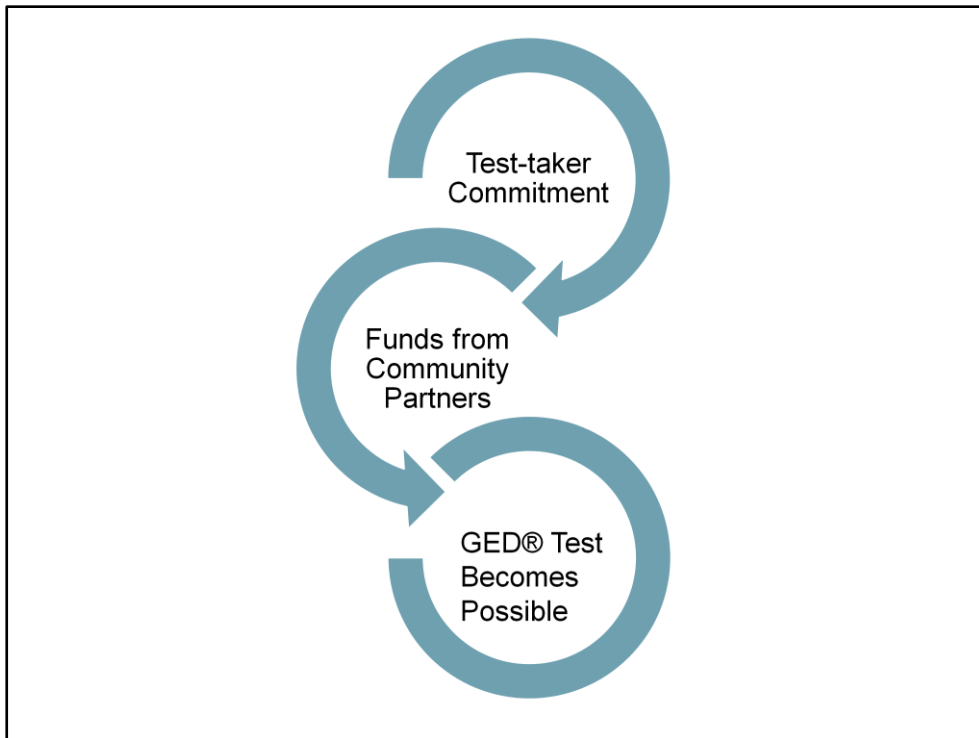


## Youth Organizations

For youth organizations, such as Challenge Academies or Job Corps Centers, vouchers are a good option for paying the fee for students.



For organizations that provide large numbers of vouchers, Pearson allows eligible organizations to make application for a revolving line of credit. With a revolving line of credit the organization is issued vouchers and then billed monthly for all vouchers used for scheduling appointments.



No one should be prohibited from taking the GED® test because of the price.

With your help, we can identify organizations to help test-takers with the fee.

## Poll Results

Let's review the results of our poll to help identify community partners.



## Thank you



Handouts at

<http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm>

- GED Testing Voucher FAQs
- GED Testing Service® Cancellation, Reschedule, and ID Policies

Ask questions or

submit additional poll comments at [GED@KY.gov](mailto:GED@KY.gov)

Find this presentation and your handouts at

<http://kyae.ky.gov/educators/GEDhottopics.htm>

If you have questions, please email them to [GED@KY.gov](mailto:GED@KY.gov)

Thank you.